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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 8 October 1997, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GALUSKA (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (E/1997/109)

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda as contained in document E/1997/109.

It was so decided.

Mr. LOZANO (Mexico) said that his delegation was perturbed at not having received the Council's report on the work of its past session. It would welcome an explanation from the Secretariat.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council), replying to the comments by the representative of Mexico, said that the late publication of the report of the Economic and Social Council was due in part to its large size. The report should appear in the course of the month.

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (E/1997/L.1/Add.3 and Add.4, E/1997/L.19, L.22 and L.60)

The PRESIDENT emphasized that the elections which it was inviting the Council to take up were postponed elections which should have taken place earlier in 1997. They should therefore be considered without reference to any reform initiative.

He drew attention to document E/1997/L.1/Add.3, which contained the names of the representatives of the functional commissions submitted for confirmation by the Council since the close of the substantive session for 1997. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council confirmed the two nominations contained in that document.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT requested member States which had not yet submitted the names and biographical data of their representatives to the functional commissions for confirmation by the Council to do so before the next session. He invited the Council to consider the vacancies in subsidiary bodies as listed in document E/1997/L.60.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the following candidates had been nominated: Belarus, Bulgaria and Romania from the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Belgium from the Group of Western European and Other States.

In the absence of any other candidates, he took it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation for a term beginning on 1 January 1998.

It was so decided.

Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria and Romania were elected members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

The PRESIDENT said that the Group of Asian States had endorsed Lebanon as a candidate for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999 and Pakistan as a candidate for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1998. The Group of Western European and Other States had nominated Germany as a candidate for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

Ms. PADOVAN (Brazil) said that her country wished to be considered a candidate for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1998.

The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any other candidates, he took it that the Council wished to elect the proposed candidates by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Brazil, Germany, Lebanon and Pakistan were elected members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

Committee for Development Planning

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal whereby the appointments of the 24 experts listed in document E/1997/L.22 would be extended.

It was so decided.

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretary-General had decided to approve the application of South Africa for full membership in the Committee. He took it that the Council wished to endorse that decision.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT, referring to the remaining vacancies listed in document E/1997/L.60, said that, in the absence of any other candidates, he took it that the Council agreed to postpone its decision to a future session.

It was so decided.

REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES:

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDENT, drawing attention to agenda item 7 (b), said that the question of the future meetings of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests would be considered at the next resumed session of the Council. The Bureau had been apprised that further consultations were needed prior to a decision on the venue and date of the Forum's second session, with due account to be taken of the availability of interpretation services and meeting facilities, and also the generous offer of the Government of Switzerland to supplement the budget, if necessary. Since the second session was not scheduled to take place until June 1998, at the earliest, the Bureau was of the opinion that postponing the decision until December would not in any way jeopardize the work of the Forum.

He invited the Council to consider the question of arrangements for elections to the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had been the subject of a first round of consultations in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. Chowdhury, Vice-President of the Council.

The meeting was suspended at 10.40 a.m. and resumed at 11.10 a.m.

Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), Vice-President, introduced the following draft decision, which had met with the approval of delegations in the course of consultations, and recommended it to the Council for adoption by consensus:

"Programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2000 and future methods of work of the Commission

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Reaffirming the provisions of its resolution 1997/63,

"1. Authorizes the Commission on Sustainable Development to convene an organizational meeting in 1997 for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairman and other members of the Bureau of its sixth session, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council. The terms of office of the members of the new

Bureau shall begin immediately upon election and shall end at the conclusion of the sixth session of the Commission in 1998;

"2. Decides to extend the terms of office of those members of the Commission whose terms of office are to expire on 31 December 1997, until the conclusion of the Commission's sixth session."

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded the first part of the resumed substantive session for 1997.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.